

16 May 2023 Minutes of the Regular and Committee of the Whole Meetings of the Silvis City Council held in Silvis City Hall, Council Chambers, 121 11th Street Silvis at 6:30pm.

1) Pledge of Allegiance:

Mayor Matt Carter called the 16 May 2023 Regular meeting of the Silvis City council to order at 6:30pm and led the Silvis City council in the Pledge of Allegiance.

2) Roll Call:

Mayor Matt Carter asked City Clerk Amy Malmstrom to call Roll.

Members Present: Tony Trulson, Bob Cervantes, Craig Pirmann, Rick Lohse, Joshua Dyer, David Rice

Absent: Ian Pavelonis

3) Proclamations: National Public Works Week May 21-27, 2023

4) Public Comment:

Mayor Carter introduced Jerry Leibovitz – interim City Administrator for 120 days

5) Appointment to vacancy for 4th Ward Alderman – Chrissy Winters

Motion:

Alderman Dave Rice made a motion to appoint Chrissy Winters as 4th Ward Alderman. Motion was seconded by Alderman Craig Pirmann.

Vote:

Members Vote: Alderman Tony Trulson - Yes, Alderman Bob Cervantes - Yes, Alderman Ian Pavelonis - Absent, Alderman Craig Pirmann - Yes, Alderman Rick Lohse - Yes, Alderman David Rice - Yes, Alderman Joshua Dyer - Yes

Motion carried 6 ayes 0 nays 1 absent

6) Vote to establish the consent agenda to include the following: (Read, then vote)

Motion:

Alderman Tony Trulson made a motion to accept as read. Motion seconded by Alderman Rick Lohse.

Vote:

Members Vote: Alderman Tony Trulson - Yes, Alderman Bob Cervantes - Yes, Alderman Ian Pavelonis - Absent, Alderman Craig Pirmann - Yes, Alderman Rick Lohse - Yes, Alderman David Rice - Yes, Alderman Joshua Dyer – Yes – Alderwoman Chrissy Winters - Yes

Motion carried 7 ayes 0 nays 1 absent

7): Vote to approve items on the consent agenda

Motion:

Alderman Tony Trulson made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda dated 16 May 2023. Motion seconded by Alderman Rick Lohse.

Vote:

Members Vote: Alderman Tony Trulson - Yes, Alderman Bob Cervantes - Yes, Alderman Ian Pavelonis - Absent, Alderman Craig Pirmann - Yes, Alderman Rick Lohse - Yes, Alderman David Rice - Yes, Alderman Joshua Dyer – Yes – Alderwoman Chrissy Winters - Yes

Motion carried 7 ayes 0 nays 1 absent

8) Discussion and potential action to approve any items removed from the Consent Agenda

9) Agenda items for discussion and possible action:

Regular Meeting

16 May 2023

A) Approval of committee member assignments

Motion:

Alderman Bob Cervantes made a motion to approve the Committee member assignments. Motion seconded by Alderman Craig Pirmann.

Vote:

Members Vote: Alderman Tony Trulson - No, Alderman Bob Cervantes - Yes, Alderman Ian Pavelonis - Absent, Alderman Craig Pirmann – Yes, Alderman Rick Lohse - No, Alderman David Rice - Yes, Alderman Joshua Dyer – No, Alderwoman Chrissy Winters - Yes
Motion carried 4 ayes 3 nays 1 absent

B) Public Works

Item 1) IMEG engineering agreement

Motion:

Alderman Bob Cervantes made a motion to approve IMEG engineering agreement out of MFT funds in the amount of \$54,319.95 Motion seconded by Alderman Craig Pirmann

Vote:

Members Vote: Alderman Tony Trulson - Yes, Alderman Bob Cervantes - Yes, Alderman Ian Pavelonis - Absent, Alderman Craig Pirmann - Yes, Alderman Rick Lohse - Yes, Alderman David Rice - Yes, Alderman Joshua Dyer – Yes, Alderwoman Chrissy Winters - Yes
Motion carried 7 ayes 0 nays 1 absent

C) Finance

Item 1) Laredo contract renewal

Motion:

Alderman Craig Pirmann made a motion to approve renewing Laredo Contract with the exception of decreasing the minutes to 0-500 in the amount of \$100/month. Motion seconded by Alderman Bob Cervantes.

Vote:

Members Vote: Alderman Tony Trulson - Yes, Alderman Bob Cervantes - Yes, Alderman Ian Pavelonis - Absent, Alderman Craig Pirmann - Yes, Alderman Rick Lohse - Yes, Alderman David Rice - Yes, Alderman Joshua Dyer – Yes, Alderwoman Chrissy Winters - Yes
Motion carried 7 ayes 0 nays

D) Hire Bond, Dickson and Conway, as special city attorney

Motion:

Alderman Craig Pirmann made a motion to Hire Bond, Dickson and Conway, as special city attorney to investigate employee complaints. Motion seconded by Alderman Joshua Dyer.

Vote:

Members Vote: Alderman Tony Trulson - Yes, Alderman Bob Cervantes - Yes, Alderman Ian Pavelonis - Absent, Alderman Craig Pirmann - Yes, Alderman Rick Lohse - Yes, Alderman David Rice - Yes, Alderman Joshua Dyer – Yes, Alderwoman Chrissy Winters - Yes
Motion carried 7 ayes 0 nays

10) City Attorney Report:

Keri-Lyn said that in addition to updating the council members on employment matters at the next City Council meeting, we would also like to schedule a newly appointed officials training session at the next meeting. We will need to come up with a date for that.

Regular Meeting

16 May 2023

11) City Administrator's Report:

12) City Engineer's Report: None

13) City Treasurer's Report: In Packet

14) City Clerk's Report:

Amy said that first I need a Bio on all new Alderpersons for the website, along with the mayors. It is almost complete and ready for everyone. The second is the summer food program for the Parks Program, I have been working with the State Board of Education to get a food program for the Parks Program, I do have that approved and I have been working with the Parks program, their Vendor is going to be the one to supply the food. It will be for 100 kids to get lunch and a snack every day. The city received awards from Impact for the Public Works Fire Station, and we received 3 awards from APWA. Tri Party Agreement, with the back for TIB, before our agreement was with just the bank. We were covered by the Bank, but the Bank agreement was with TIB, and we were not a Tri-Party with all of them, so after talking to the bank and an attorney we have come up with a Tri-Party agreement so if something were to happen then we are a part of that agreement and 100% covered. Before if the Bank went under, they had an agreement with TIB, but we did not, now we are included. Cyber Security Training is now a mandated training course for all City Employees, so I am working on getting that all signed up. Our Verizon account was hacked, and I am working on getting our account unlocked. Project Now, if as Alderpersons you get a request with someone needing help with their water services, they have helped a lot of people out with water problems, I would say at least 15 accounts have been paid off. If you do hear about anyone needing help let me know and I can get you the contacts. Shirley Helmick's building has sold so she has paid off 50% of her TIF and she is refinancing her other building to pay the rest of that off and then she will be free and clear of that. I also wanted to remind you all of Officer Miletich's sons' benefit is the 20th from 12 to 6 at the Princeton Fire Department.

15) Mayor's Report:

Mayor Matt Carter said he wanted to remind everyone that we have a Centennial Fundraiser for Bingo Night for the Silvis Public Library at the McGhee Center, May 18th from 5 to 7. Silvis Public Library will also have the newsletter in the Water Billing Statements for the Reading Program. I also spoke to a developer on the old Ben Franklin's building, but we would need to possibly make some Ordinance changes, the State of Illinois has changed some Ordinances back in 2019, it was a cannabis ordinance, and we need to maybe consider looking at this in a different light. The purchase would hinge on this ordinance change. For the City Attorney I am waiting to hear back from one more reference and then I should make my decision.

16) City Staff Reports

A) Fire Department:

Chief Winters, the only thing I have is that I will be off May 30th through the 2nd.

B) Inspections Department:

To the Ordinance committee I need to schedule a meeting.

Regular Meeting

16 May 2023

C) Police Department:

Chief VanKlaveren said just a reminder the JDC is the week of July 4th, that is going to be a busy week. We are currently at full staff, we are establishing a new list, we currently have 3 candidates. In August this year we are going to a Night Out Against Crime at Schadt Park, more information as that comes out. Just to key in on what Amy said, one of our Sergeants his son had half of his brain disconnected because he has such bad seizures. He is trying to learn how to use his body again and he is up in Iowa City, it is an intense surgery for a little kid to go through. Any kind of support would be greatly appreciated.

D) Public Works & Parks:

Joe Rockwell said to elaborate on the awards we won from the EPA. We won project of the year for the Water Transmission Line; we won 2 awards for that, and we won an award for the Lead Copper survey we did. They were really impressed by the work we did. We need 1 more person for summer help so if you know anyone who is 18 let me know. Blain's mother died and visitation will be at Schroder from 4 to 7.

17) Comments from the Alderpersons:

Alderman Tony Trulson said I don't know if it is going to make a difference, but I would recommend that we do not take this Council and make it us against them. I would also say, especially pertaining to the meetings some things were wrong, and we had to make corrections on how we do things but maybe we do not need to change everything, just for the sake of change. This Council has been working well with our procedures and I don't think we need to change everything.

Alderman Bob Cervantes said that he wants to hit on a little of what Tony said, for myself and what has happened with myself and the past council and the present council that is here now. I need clarification on what happened, I heard there is a tape out there and I am going to listen to it, not sure if the other council has listened to it or not. We have attorneys everywhere, the taxpayers of this City are the ones we answer too, that is who I answer too. This is not going to be forgive and forget, I can't do that. I need to know why the City Administrator, 3 days before we take office she leaves for another job. There has been tension in the office that I have noticed, when she was here, and I was a regular resident. I need to know what happened and who was involved with this, did it start with a Senior employee losing his position and was everyone given their time to say what they needed. I am here to work with everyone but let's get to the bottom of this. I think we should release this tape so everyone can hear it and clear the plate from the last council. Clean plate and clean start for this new council. I am going to make a request to the Public Works, the Hero Street committee came to me and asked if they could get a set of bleachers for their event on the 27th. I will give you the contact for that. To the Police Department, if possible, for an extra patrol on that day. I also want to send out my condolences to Blain Scott on the passing of his mother.

Alderman Craig Pirmann said that he wants to agree with Tony and Bob and say we do need to work together, and it is our responsibility to the community. I know what people are expecting from me, they have feelings and a right. There has to be some responsibility for all this stuff that has happened in the last couple of months. I did listen to the tape and read all the documents and I have to be honest, and I would like to see the tape released to the public. My assessment

Regular Meeting

16 May 2023

is that we need to hold an attorney accountable for misleading. This needs to be really looked at by all of us, I didn't see that in what I read. It is the stuff they don't know that will probably surprise them, you heard me before I became Alderman, and I said I hope this is something that is not petty. Address this item by item and get down to it and over it. I came here to build team Silvis up. We have some difficult challenges coming up. We have some TIF's that have to be addressed and I have been warning the city about them for years. We have a responsibility to our children, our schools, our employees, we are all part of the same team, and we need to get our bridge put back together. In an honest professional way, not personal.

Alderswoman Chrissy Winters said I want to thank you for the opportunity to serve here and I am sure that after some time here I will have more to say. I do agree that everyone needs to work together as a team.

Alderman Joshua Dyer said he hears a lot about working together as a team, and I love that, and I want to work together as a team. It is difficult to do that when ideas are brought up, suggestions are made, and we steam wheel right over it. Why not find a nice compromise position that everyone can be happy with and the committees they are on? Each committee has the right expertise on it, the right experience, we talked about it but there was no why don't we swap here or there that didn't happen. You want to be a team but already the first meeting it is pretty hard to do. We will see how it goes.

Alderman Dave Rice said he agrees that the team needs to work together and pull together. Remember we work for the citizens of this town, we are not individuals anymore, we are their voice.

Alderman Rick Lohse said welcome Chrissy, we have some bills that need signed so you can do that. Last meeting, we talked about Mayor pro-tem and I was nominated and I would like to withdraw that nomination, Bob you are retired and you can better help this city more than I can when I am still working. Thanks for the nomination Josh, I served under Mayor Conrad for 2 years as Mayor pro-tem and I would do it again but be my guest. As to working well together in teams you will be surprised at what we do, the last 6 months have not been normal, at least from my 8 years I have been on it. It has been pretty smooth in fact you can see what I was going to do in the next 2 years because it was getting pretty boring, well I would gladly take that boring over what it has been over the last 6 months. We need closer, I have been called out personally and many times in this room, in the press, I have held my tongue because of the legal ramifications of that, so hopefully the vote tonight to get this investigation started. They can look at everything, the tape was just one thing of many things, don't hang everything on that one tape. You mention legal and I agree we have too much legal in here and I think that will all go away. We went a long time with just Nick sitting here, only using other attorney's when it was out of his expertise. I think if we can get a permanent city attorney that would help. Jerry, good luck and we will be down to talk to you and see how things are going. I look forward to working with you all and I think what you will find in the next 6 months will clear up.

Alderman Craig Pirmann said that he just noticed a change in committee assignments when looking at Pavelonis is in 4 committees. Josh said it was already voted on with no amendment. Tony said he brought that up at the beginning of the discussion, but it didn't get fixed. Josh said like it or not that is what got voted on and he is in their 4 times. Craig said let's revote on it then and Bob said it has passed and that is the end of it then. Kari-Lyn said that someone can make a motion to reconsider.

Regular Meeting

16 May 2023

Motion:

Alderman Craig Pirmann made a motion to reconsider item A committee assignments. Motion seconded by Alderman Bob Cervantes.

Vote:

Members Vote: Alderman Tony Trulson - Yes, Alderman Bob Cervantes - Yes, Alderman Ian Pavelonis - Absent, Alderman Craig Pirmann - Yes, Alderman Rick Lohse - Yes, Alderman David Rice - Yes, Alderman Joshua Dyer – Yes, Alderwoman Chrissy Winters - Yes

Motion carried 7 ayes 0 nays

Motion:

Alderman Tony Trulson made a motion to correct Alderperson Pirmann as opposed to Alderman Pavelonis as well as change Alderperson Lohse to Finance in the place of Alderperson Winters and make the switch of Economic Development Committee with the Finance Committee. Motion seconded by Alderman Joshua Dyer.

Vote:

Members Vote: Alderman Tony Trulson - Yes, Alderman Bob Cervantes - No, Alderman Ian Pavelonis - Absent, Alderman Craig Pirmann - No, Alderman Rick Lohse - Yes, Alderman David Rice - No, Alderman Joshua Dyer - Yes, Alderwoman Chrissy Winters – Abstain, Mayor Carter - No

Motion carried 3 ayes 4 nays 1 abstain

Motion:

Alderman Craig Pirmann made a motion to correct the changes of Alderman Pavelonis to Alderman Pirmann. Motion seconded by Alderman Bob Cervantes.

Vote:

Members Vote: Alderman Tony Trulson - No, Alderman Bob Cervantes - Yes, Alderman Ian Pavelonis - Absent, Alderman Craig Pirmann - Yes, Alderman Rick Lohse - Yes, Alderman David Rice - Yes, Alderman Joshua Dyer – Yes, Alderwoman Chrissy Winters - Yes

Motion carried 7 ayes 0 nays

18) Adjournment

Mayor Matt Carter asked for a motion to adjourn from 16 May 2023 Committee of the Whole meeting of the Silvis City Council

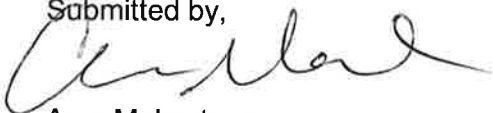
Motion:

Alderman Bob Cervantes made a motion to adjourn from the 16 May 2023 Silvis City Council Regular Meeting. Motion to second by Alderman Rick Lohse.

Motion carried via voice vote:

The 16 May 2023 Committee of the Whole meeting of the Silvis City Council adjourned at 7:46 pm

Submitted by,



Amy Malmstrom
City Clerk